

Method and System for Capturing In-Service Date Information Abstract

A system and method for establishing and maintaining date information associated with an electronic device. The system is typically configured to prompt a user to enter or otherwise establish a valid date at some point after power is applied to the system. After establishing a valid date, the real time clock is configured to maintain real-time date/time information. Upon determining that a valid date has been set, the system may subsequently obtain date/time information from the real time clock and store the obtained date and time in the non-volatile memory as the in-service date. The system may be enabled to determine if, subsequent to establishing an in-service date, the user altered the date/time information in a manner that indicated an intent to extend the warranty period beyond the manufacturer specified warranty period. In an embodiment suitable for use in conjunction with a server blade, the system includes a main processor and a service processor that handles low-level functions associated with the server blade. The in-service date information may be stored in a non-volatile memory of the service processor. This non-volatile memory may be implemented as an EEPROM that includes connections or pins supporting an externally accessible bus such as an I2C bus. In this embodiment, the system may further include a readout device configured to connect to the service processor EEPROM through the externally accessible bus to enable a technician to retrieve the in-service date without regard to the functionality of the main processor(s) and system memory.